## Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



# Aging, climate change, and legacy thinking

Author(s): Frumkin H, Fried L, Moody R

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#### Abstract:

Climate change is a complex, long-term public health challenge. Older people are especially susceptible to certain climate change impacts, such as heat waves. We suggest that older people may be a resource for addressing climate change because of their concern for legacy--for leaving behind values, attitudes, and an intact world to their children and grandchildren. We review the theoretical basis for "legacy thinking" among older people. We offer suggestions for research on this phenomenon, and for action to strengthen the sense of legacy. At a time when older populations are growing, understanding and promoting legacy thinking may offer an important strategy for addressing climate change.

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### **Resource Description**

#### Communication: M

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Other Communication Audience: Elderly

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

**Unspecified Exposure** 

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: M

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specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly

Resource Type: M

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified